

Provost's Report to Senate: April 29, 2014

The Matariki Network of Universities (MNU) Executive Board Meeting

In February, I attended (on the Principal's behalf) the MNU Executive Board Meeting at Uppsala University in Sweden. This was the fourth meeting of the MNU Executive Committee, the previous one having taken place here at Queen's in November 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to establish priorities for the MNU and move forward the body of MNU work activity. It was a very productive meeting on both counts. Highlights included:

- Creation of the (first) MNU strategy document, which attempts to capture the ethos, mission and strategy of the Network.
- Discussion of the notion of a mutual credit recognition system.
- Advancement of discussion of a joint Master's degree, linked to one of the research themes embraced by the MNU member institutions, and perhaps linked to an existing funding scheme (e.g., Erasmus Mundus).
- Participation in benchmarking studies, such as the International Student Barometer, which would produce comparison data for all participating MNU partners at no additional cost.
- Continued participation in joint alumni events, with the next one tentatively planned for the UK in fall 2014.

Queen's National Scholar (QNS)

Following the successful Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the fields of Aquatic Ecotoxicology, Indigenous Visual and Material Cultures of the Americas, and International Community-Based Rehabilitation Therapy in this year's competition, the related faculties have submitted their full proposals to the [QNS Advisory Committee](#). These full proposals include, in each case, a recommendation of a candidate for appointment. Before the end of April, the QNS Advisory Committee will review the proposals and will be making a recommendation to the Principal as to which two candidates should be offered appointments.

Senators may recall that three EOIs were selected for the second round of the previous year's competition. The high academic quality of the three individuals whose appointment was recommended led the QNS Advisory Committee to investigate whether all three might be offered positions. This turned out to be possible through a combination of funding made available by a delay in the introduction of the new QNS program and support from the Faculty of

Arts and Science. Accordingly, it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of three new Queen's National Scholars:

- Professor Armand Ruffo (Indigenous Literature and Languages)
- Dr. Avena Ross (Chemical Biology/Medicinal Chemistry)
- Dr. Awet Weldemichael (African History)

Additional information on the incoming scholars can be found on the [Queen's News Centre](#).

I should like to take this opportunity to remind Senate that we will be initiating the third round of the competition in September. Please visit the [Office of the Provost's website](#) for updates on the competition and submission deadlines.

2014-2015 Budget: Update

The determination of the 2014-15 budget is now in its final stages, pending approval of the enrolment projections. The 2014-2015 Operating Budget and Budget Report will be submitted to the Board for approval in May. This year, the Budget Report will, for the first time, include projections on research fund revenues and trust and endowment revenues, resulting in a broader financial picture for the Board.

The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts: Update

Construction on the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts continues to make good progress, with only minor work outstanding. The Centre, which will open officially in September 2014, is now open for staff tours. Our generous donors, Alfred and Isabel Bader, enjoyed a tour of the IBCPA on April 5, 2014, while in Kingston to receive the Queen's Alumni Achievement Award. Additional information on the Centre, including updated pictures, can be found on the [IBCPA website](#).